

# STIR IN CONGRESS OVER PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY

## Afraid It Will Result in War Between the United States and Germany

**President Firm for American Rights and Honor of Nation  
—“Covets Peace, But Would be Deep Humiliation to  
Forbid Our People to Exercise Rights for Fear We  
Might be Called Upon to Vindicate Them”**

Last Thursday there was a beginning of a near approach to revolt on the part of Congress to President Wilson's foreign policy in dealing with the belligerent nations of Europe, and his firmness in dealing with Germany over her submarine warfare declarations. The feeling at Washington has since been intense and a break threatened.

In the diplomatic exchanges of the Administration with Germany over the sinking without warning of the Lusitania and the Arabic, in which so many American lives were lost together with other non-combatant passengers, Germany finally acceded to the demands of the United States for reparation as far as it could be made, and gave her pledge that merchant ships would not be sunk by her submarines without warning and without safety to the lives of passengers, provided the merchant ships did not try to escape or offer resistance. These assurances were taken to mean at the time they were given that all merchant ships, including those defensively armed, would be safe from attack without warning.

It had long been conceded by the powers that merchant ships had the right to arm for defensive purposes under international law. But the submarine, while a dangerous instrument of destruction to not only merchant ships but to war vessels, is a very frail affair when it comes to being attacked even by an armed merchant ship that may discover it first, and its only defense against attack is to submerge.

Since this assurance that merchant vessels carrying non-combatant passengers would not be attacked without warning and that its passengers should have an opportunity to save their lives, Germany has declared that beginning February 29th her submarines would attack all defensively armed merchant ships without warning and sink them. How the submarine commanders were to learn that a ship was armed before firing their destructive missiles into it is not known. It would have to be left to the submarine commander's judgment alone, and he has no way of telling whether a merchant ship may have a gun on her decks or not. He might infer that every merchant ship he sighted was defensively armed, and there would be no recourse against his government for any mistake he might make, for there would be no way of learning whether an unfortunate ship, its passengers and crew, lying at the bottom of the ocean, had any arms on it or not. In any event, international law gives a merchant ship the right to arm itself for defense. If it should attack a submarine or any other warship, then it and not the submarine would be responsible if it were sunk.

President Wilson has protested to Germany against this sort of submarine warfare, and the exchanges between the governments over their disagreements are still pending. The situation has become very strained, critical indeed, but President Wilson has been firm in his protests and his contention for what he deems the rights of American citizens on the high seas. Congress became alarmed over the situation lest the President was inviting war with Germany, and threatened to break with the President over his foreign policy, and to accede to Germany's contention to warn American citizens to keep off merchant ships that carried defensive arms. So tense had become the feeling that Senator Stone, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, addressed the following letter to the President:

### Senator Stone's Letter

"Dear Mr. President—Since Senator Kern, Mr. Flood and I talked with you on Monday evening, I am more troubled than I have been for many a day. I have not felt authorized to repeat our conversation, but I have attempted, in response to numerous inquiries from my colleagues, to state to them, within the confidence that they should observe, my general understanding of your attitude. I have stated my understanding of your attitude to be substantially as follows:

"That while you would deeply regret the rejection by Great Britain of Mr. Lansing's proposal for the disarmament of merchant vessels of the Allies, with the understanding that Germany and her allies would not fire upon a merchant ship if she hailed when summoned, not attempting to escape, and that the German warships would only exercise the admitted right of visitations and capture, and would destroy the captured ship except only in circumstances that reasonably assured the safety of passengers and crew, and were of the opinion that if Great Britain and her allies upon arming her merchant ships, she would be within her right under international law. Also that you would feel disposed to allow armed vessels to be cleared from our ports; also that you are not favorably disposed to the idea of this government taking any definite steps toward preventing American citizens from embarking upon armed merchant vessels. Furthermore, that you would consider it your duty, if a German warship should fire upon an armed merchant vessel of the enemy upon which American citizens were passengers, to hold Germany to strict account.

Numerous members of the Senate and the House have called to discuss this subject with me. I have felt that the members of the two Houses who are to deal with this grave question are entitled to know the situation we are confronting, as I understand it to be. I think I should say to you that the members of both Houses feel deeply concerned and disturbed by what they read and hear."

"I have heard of some talk on the effect that some are saying that after all it may be possible that the program of preparedness, so-called, has some relation to such a situation as we are now called upon to meet. I have counseled all who have talked with me to keep cool; that this whole business is still the subject of diplomacy, and that you are striving to the utmost to bring about peaceable adjustment, and that in the meantime Congress should be careful not to "ball up" a diplomatic situation by any kind of hasty and ill-considered action. However, the situation in Congress is such to excite a sense of deep concern in the minds of careful and thoughtful men. I have felt that it is due to you to say this much.

"I think you understand my personal attitude with respect to this subject. As much and as deeply as I would hate to radically disagree with you, I find it difficult, from my sense of duty and responsibility, to consent to plunge this nation into the vortex of this world war because of the unreasonable obstinacy of any of the powers upon the one hand, or, on the other hand, of foolishness amounting to a sort of moral treason against the republic, of our people recklessly risking their lives on armed belligerent ships. I cannot escape the conviction that such would be so monstrous as to be indefensible.

"I want to be with you and stand by you, and I mean to do so up to the last limit; and I want to talk with you and Secretary Lansing with the utmost frankness—to confer with you and have your judgment and counsel—and I want to be kept advised as to the course of events, as it seems to me I am entitled to be. In the meantime I am striving to prevent anything being done by any Senator or member calculated to embarrass your diplomatic negotiations. Up to the last you should be left free to act diplomatically as you think for the best to settle the questions involved. I need hardly say that my wish is to help, not to hinder you.

"With the highest regard and the most sympathetic consideration, I have the honor, Mr. President, to be, Very sincerely yours,

"W. J. STONE."

To this letter, on February 24th, Mr. Wilson made the following reply to Senator Stone's letter, defining clearly and firmly his position on the armed ship policy in which he says "the honor and self-respect of the nation is involved," that "we covet

peace, and shall preserve it at any cost but the loss of honor;" that "to forbid our people to exercise their rights for fear we might be called upon to vindicate them, would be a deep humiliation indeed."

### The President's Letter

The White House, Washington, February 24, 1916.

"My dear Senator: I very warmly appreciate your kind and frank letter of today, and feel that it calls for an equally frank reply.

"You are right in assuming that I shall do everything in my power to keep the United States out of war. I think the country will feel no uneasiness about my course in that respect. Through many anxious months I have striven for that object, amidst difficulties more manifold than can have been apparent upon the surface, and so far I have succeeded. I do not doubt that I shall continue to succeed.

The course which the central European powers have announced their intention of following in the future with regard to undersea warfare seems for the moment to threaten insuperable obstacles, but its apparent meaning is so manifestly inconsistent with explicit assurances recently given by those Powers with regard to their treatment of merchant vessels on the high seas that I must believe that explanations will presently ensue which will put a different aspect upon it. We have had no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to their promises in the past, and I, for one, feel confident that we shall have none in the future.

"But in any event our duty is clear. No nation, no group of nations, has the right while war is in progress, to alter or disregard the principles which all nations have agreed upon in mitigation of the horrors and sufferings of war; and if the clear rights of American citizens should ever unhappily be abridged or denied by any such action, we should, it seems to me, have in honor no choice as to what our own course should be.

"For my own part, I cannot consent to any abridgment of the rights of American citizens in any respect. The honor and self-respect of the nation is involved. We covet peace and shall preserve it at any cost, but the loss of honor. To forbid our people to exercise our rights for fear we might be called upon to vindicate them would be a deep humiliation indeed. It would be an implicit acquiescence in the violation of the rights of mankind everywhere and of whatever nation or allegiance. It would be a deliberate abdication of our hitherto proud position as spokesmen, even amidst the turmoil of war, for the law and the right. It would make everything this government has attempted and everything that it has achieved during this terrible struggle of nations meaningless and futile.

"It is important to reflect that if in this instance we allowed expediency to take the place of principle, the door would inevitably be opened to still further concessions. Once accept a single abatement of right and many other humiliations would certainly follow, and the whole fine fabric of international law might crumble under our hands, piece by piece. What we are contending for in this matter is of the very essence of the things that have made America a sovereign nation. She cannot yield them without conceding her own impotency as a nation and making virtual surrender of her independent position among the nations of the world.

"I am speaking, my dear Senator, in deep solemnity, without heat, with a clear consciousness of the high responsibility of my office, and as your sincere and devoted friend. If we should unhappily differ, we shall differ as friends; but where issues so momentous as these are involved we must, just because we are friends, speak our minds without reservation.

"Faithfully yours,  
"WOODROW WILSON."

### MISSOURI INVENTORS

The following patents were just issued to Missouri clients reported by D. Swift and Co., Patent Lawyers, Washington, D. C., who will furnish copies of any patent for ten cents apiece to our readers.

Burford S. Capstick, Pine Lawn, Cue-tip; Jos. W. Dawson, St. Louis, bottle washing machine; Wm. H. Elgin, Excelsior Springs, metal door and window casing and base-cap; Patrick W. Hennessy, Joplin, check-valve structure; Irl R. Hicks, Hallsville, piston-ring; Lee B. Jones, Kansas City, Voltage regulation; Jos. A. Kraker, Kansas City, fountain pen; Jas. G. Lawler, St. Louis, upper buffing device for vestibule face plates; Andrew H. Lott, St. Louis, bracelet; Champion Mayfield, Kansas City, internal combustion engine; John M. Rohlfing, St. Louis, upper buffing device for vestibule face plates.

The President may speak in Galveston, but he can't tell it anything about preparedness.

## 1916 Republicanism

As Depicted by "The New Republic", a Staid and Erudite New York Publication.

Wanted: Executive head of a large concern about to enter field of world competition; previous experience undesirable. Must have magnetic presence and investigation-proof past; must be able to put over blend of safe progressivism and sane reaction; should be agitator who can whip up surface without stirring depths; will need ability to soothe business with high tariff and the people with his charm; must never have antagonized Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, Episcopalian, Methodist, Presbyterian, Mormon, Orthodox Jew, Reformed Jewish, Mason, Odd Fellow, or Elks vote; must not drink, but be hostile to liquor vote; must have lived a spotless life yet be known as a man; must favor Allies but not against Germans; must talk well about honor but preserve the peace; must be for preparedness and a reduction of taxes; must guarantee prosperity; must preach economy but remember his friends; must fear no precedent but reverse the Constitution. In words of former incumbent, applicant must be like Caesar's wife—that is to say, all things to all men.

Apply Secretary Republican National Committee.

The contest for the honor of leading the Republican party is distinguished from other contests in that no contest is taking place. There are many candidates, but they are all playing safe and are scrupulously careful not to submit their claims to any large body of Republican voters. Each candidate of course must be equipped with the delegates from his own State, but in only a few negligible instances are they trying to secure delegates outside their States. There is a general disposition to avoid contention even with the Democrats. There is an abject fear of arousing too much popular interest in these preliminaries to the national convention. It is as if the disembodied spirit of the Republican party were saying to itself: "Four years ago I allowed my house to be divided by encouraging a contest among the bigger brethren for power, and by decision of the smaller brethren. But this year, whatever else I do, I am going to repair the schism. The big chiefs must not fight; they must only pretend to do so. The smaller fry must not have a chance to express their preferences, because they might re-open old wounds. In every respect I must behave differently than I did in 1912. There must be no commotion, no consultation with the people, no antecedent discussion of issues and programs, no enmities created or loyalties aroused. The real decision will be made at the last moment by the wiser brothers. They will announce it to the foolish brothers, who will accept it on faith and raise their voices in glad acquiescence."

## FIRST SNAKE STORY OF THE 1916 SEASON

The Sikeston Herald is responsible for the following: With the approach of spring comes the usual snake and lizard stories, but D. A. Briant of the Big Opening neighborhood has a snake story which is not of the usual kind, as he can back it up with substantial proof. He was in Sikeston Wednesday, with several large black snakes, blue racers and other reptiles—safely confined in a box, of course. He said his little son had discovered the snake den in an old stump on a farm belonging to Bill Sikes, and that thirteen—in this case a very unlucky number—had been extracted. Eight of the snakes were over six feet long. Mr. Bryant said that the snakes had not yet recovered from their winter's sleep and would not bite. Those who saw them took his word for it.

### YOUNG MAN WANTED

To qualify for civil service or business position; salary \$840 to \$1800 per year; experience unnecessary. I will pay half your tuition and help defray your expenses while learning in exchange for a few hours assistance at your home. This offer is limited, must be accepted immediately. C. W. Ransom, Pres., Ransomian Business School, 1334 Grand Ave., Kansas City, Mo. Write him at once for full particulars. (Dec. 31.)

Office Phone 296; Res. Phone 342

### THE MARRYING JUSTICE

Call day or night

"Your photograph free  
When married by me."

WILLIAM GOOD

Justice of the Peace  
Farmers Bank Building  
Farmington, Mo.

## OLD LANDMARK REMOVED

Cape Girardeau's oldest chimney is being torn down. The massive brick structure on the west side of the historic home occupied for the last 66 years by Mrs. Ellen Wright at Themis and Middle streets, is being wrecked and the completion of the job will mark the disappearance of one of the Cape's most notable historical features.

The Wright house, as it has been known for more than a half century, was built in about 1806. It withstood the New Madrid earthquake in 1811 and in 1810, the first court was held in that house by Judge Henderson. The house was built by the Henderson family, and now is occupied by Mrs. Wright, who is a widow of Judge Henderson's grandson. She is about 80 years old, and since last June, when she fell and sustained a broken wrist and an injury to her hip, she has been confined to her bed.

In the summer time 100 years ago, the sessions of court were held out on the porch fronting Themis street and much of the history of Louisiana territory as well as Southeast Missouri, was made on that doorstep.—Cape Girardeau Tribune.

## TRAVELER'S GUIDE.

To reach Farmington you can use either one of the following routes:

From the North.

(Via St. Louis.)

M. R. & B. T. Ry.—Leave St. Louis at 7:32 a. m. and 3:55 p. m., arriving at Farmington over electric railway from Flat River at 11:41 a. m. and 7:56 p. m.

Iron Mountain—Leave St. Louis at 7:32 or 9:05 a. m., arriving at Farmington over the electric railway from DeLassus at 12:35 p. m.

From the South.

Iron Mountain via Bismarck and DeLassus—Arrive at Farmington over electric railway at 12:35 p. m.

Belmont Branch of Iron Mountain—Arrive at Farmington over electric railway from DeLassus at 2:27 p. m.

Cape Girardeau Northern—Arrive at Farmington at 8:10 p. m. from Cape Girardeau and intermediate points. Going south the train leaves Farmington at 7:00 a. m. Both trains make connection with Frisco trains at Perryville Junction.

### To Reach St. Louis.

You can go over either of the roads at the following hours:

M. R. & B. T.—Leave Farmington over electric railway to Flat River at 5:55 a. m. and 12:28 p. m., arriving in St. Louis at 10:05 a. m. and 6:27 p. m. Fare from Farmington, \$1.66. Round trip, \$3.22, (if passenger can go and return same day, the round trip rate is \$3.22).

Iron Mountain—Leave Farmington over electric railway to DeLassus at 1:45 p. m., arriving in St. Louis at 6:27 p. m. Fare for one way from Farmington \$1.90; round trip, \$3.80.

## ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY RY. CO. Time Table (Condensed.)

Between Farmington and Flat River.	
Lv. Farmington.	Arr. Flat River.
5:53 a. m.	6:29 a. m.
7:28 a. m.	8:04 a. m.
8:58 a. m.	9:34 a. m.
10:17 a. m.	10:53 a. m.
2:28 p. m.	3:01 p. m.
4:54 p. m.	5:30 p. m.
6:34 p. m.	7:10 p. m.

Lv. Flat River		Arr. Farmington	
6:37 a. m.	7:13 a. m.	8:06 a. m.	8:42 a. m.
9:37 a. m.	10:13 a. m.	11:05 a. m.	11:41 a. m.
3:55 p. m.	4:31 p. m.	5:38 p. m.	6:14 p. m.
7:20 p. m.	7:56 p. m.		

Between Farmington and Lead Belt. Local Service between Farmington and Leadwood, Bonne Terre, Elvins and intermediate points: Cars leaving Farmington at 5:55 and 8:58 a. m. and 4:54 p. m. make direct connections with M. R. & B. T. Ry. at Flat River for Bonne Terre and Leadwood and intermediate points.

Cars leaving Farmington at 7:28 and 10:17 a. m. and 2:28 and 4:54 p. m., make direct connections with the M. R. & B. T. Ry., at Flat River for Elvins and intermediate points. All M. R. & B. T. Ry., trains make direct connections at Flat River with electric cars for Farmington and intermediate points.

Between Farmington and DeLassus.	
Lv. Farmington.	Arr. DeLassus.
11:41 a. m.	12:20 p. m.
1:45 p. m.	1:57 p. m.
Lv. DeLassus.	Arr. Farmington
12:35 p. m.	12:47 p. m.

## "Nervous exhaustion— blinding headache"



Striving to satisfy the demands of everyone is apt to affect the nerves, and continual standing may weaken the heart.

**Dr. Miles' Nervine** is invaluable for Nervous troubles, and for the Heart

**Dr. Miles' Heart Treatment** is highly recommended.

IF FIRST BOTTLE FAILS TO BENEFIT YOU, YOUR MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED.

### LIVED IN MISERY.

"I suffered greatly from nervousness and headaches. The least excitement gave me dreadful pain. I began using Dr. Miles' Nervine and a few days later started to take Dr. Miles' Heart Treatment. I soon got so much better that I was encouraged and continued taking the two remedies until I was so well that work was no longer a bother to me at all."

MRS. LOUIS ELG,  
Idaho Falls, Idaho.